Middlebury Apr. 26th — 50

Dear Brother:

I wrote to you a few days previous to the receipt of your last letter; but it appears that at the time you wrote, my letter had not reached you. Doubtless you have got it before now; but as occasion presents itself, I will write you a few lines in addition, informing you about our Junior Exhibition, and how I am spending vacation. Our Exhibition came off on tuesday eve. and if I may be allowed to judge, ~~it~~ afforded a good degree of satisfaction to those who ~~witnessed~~ attended it. The audience was large, and listened very attentively to most of the performances. I had hoped that you would make me a visit on this occasion. I think I wrote you an invitation in my former letter. But as you were not present, I will herein enclose a schedule from which you will be able to learn something of the character of the Exhibition.

I am having a glorious time this vacation; I have just returned from a excursion to the mountains, having been gone nearly two days. A few of my merry companions were with me, and we had a fine time I assure you. In the early part of the afternoon yesterday, we in traversing the forest came to a place where there was an apparatus for making maple sugar. A man had a hundred trees tapped, and he told us, if we would gather the sap which was then in the buckets and make it into sugar, we might have half of it for our pains. We of course commenced the job at once, and never did fellows work more busily than we did. We got the sap all boiled into syrup by about ten o'clock in the evening; and then encamped upon the ground

for the night, covering ourselves with a blanket which we borrowed. This morning we arose with the lark, and were much refreshed by breathing the mountain air. We completed the process of making our sugar, and having taken breakfast at a neighboring cottage, returned to Middlebury, as you may well imagine, much elated with the success of our adventure. The weight of the sugar which we made was not far from 30 pounds.

You ask my advice in respect to entering Midd. College next summer. I must confess that I feel incompetent to advise you in this case; but as you desire it, I am willing to speak explicitly on the subject. You are well aware that I have always been dissatisfied here, and have desired to leave and go to another college. Therefore I would not wish to play the hypocrite, by enticing you here also, to share with me the same discontent. I would not wish to be the means of your entering this college, and afterwards be blamed if you should repent of the act. While on the one hand I have no very strong objections against the college to state to you, (although I do consider ~~its~~ present system of instruction to be ~~very~~ rather imperfect) on the other I have little to say in its favor. If you enter here, I prefer that you should do it as your own independent choice, rather than from any advice of mine. However, if you can persuade yourself to enter this college, and I also conclude to remain here myself, I shall be very glad to enjoy your company next year, and will do what lies in my power to make your situation a pleasant one to you.

Affectionately your friend and brother, Solon.

Solon. Abbe
1850.

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Mr. Ellery Albee

Chester Vt.